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Flash Back

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Volume 54, Number 3 Summer 2004

Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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FLASHBACK

Washington County Historical Society
Preserving the Past for the Future
Volume 54 **Summer 2004** **Number 3**

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Cover: The First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, in 1908. This building stood at the corner of College Avenue and Dickson Street until it was replaced in 1960 (Courtesy First Baptist Church) .

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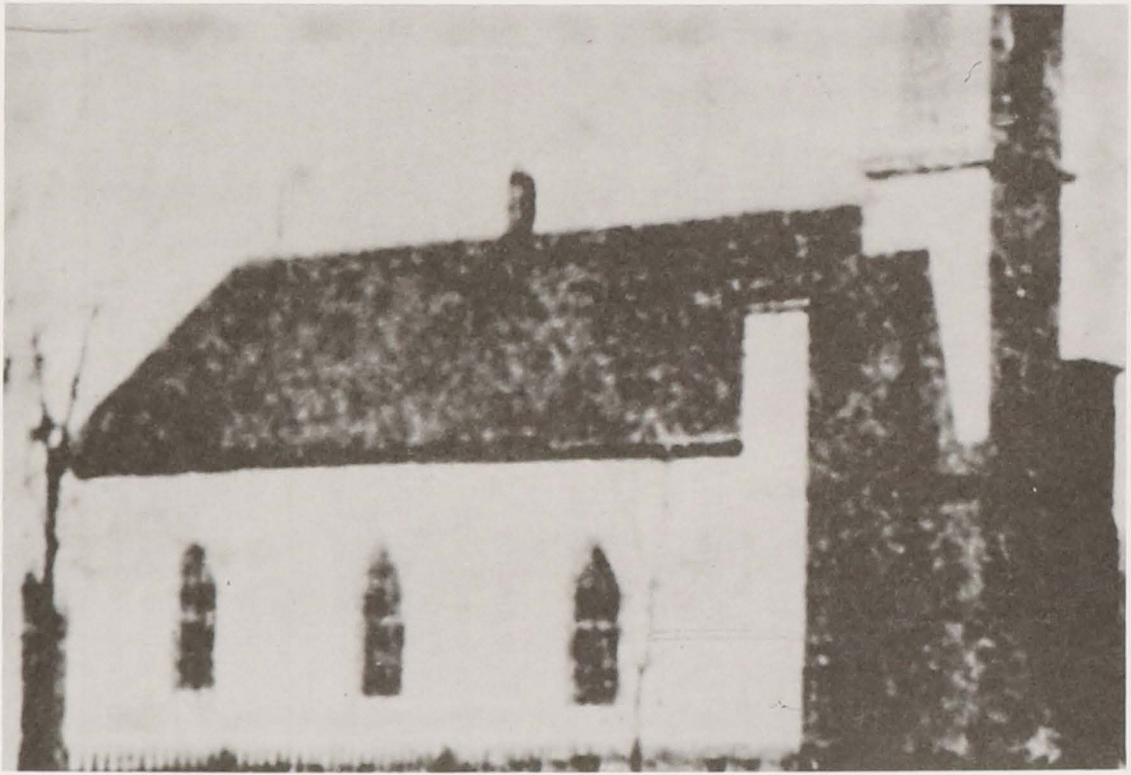


Pastor John Mayes provided much of the labor in 1879 for the first building of First Baptist Church. Located at 223 N. College, the 30 x 60 foot structure accommodated the congregation of 100 members.

FAYETTEVILLE'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: 150 YEARS OF SERVING A VISION

TAMMI REED LEDBETTER

T. B. Van Horne, John Mayes, and C. H. Bootright did not appear to have enough in common to work together in any setting—other than advancing the Kingdom of God in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Professor Van Horne was a scholar—a teacher of humanities and languages at a local college who was respected in the community and the state for encouraging education. Mayes had been a farmer in Tennessee who proved himself skilled as a carpenter. As a pioneer preacher in Tennessee, Elder Bootright was described as a minister of great prominence, ability, and personal force. At a rural Arkansas church they would worship together and consider how their particular abilities could be used to launch a new congregation in Fayetteville.

"Whatever the facts and figures of the settlement of this beautiful, hilly, wooded area that became Fayetteville, Arkansas, those facts and figures were made by individuals," remarked Mary Jane Haley in her account of the Fayetteville church's commitment to missions. More than dry statistical information, she described these early members as "families, white and black, free and slave, who chose to leave their homes to the north and east and settle in a new land."

Tammi Reed Ledbetter is a native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and former member of First Baptist Church of Fayetteville. She is a freelance writer for Baptist Press and the *Southern Baptist TEXAN*. To obtain a copy of "One Faith, One Hope, One Hundred Fifty Years: The History of First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas, contact First Baptist Church, 20 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701, call 479-442-2398 or send an email inquiry to mail@fbcfayetteville.org. Copies are available at a cost of $12.

Arkansas Baptist leader J. D. Searcy described the challenge these early Baptists faced prior to organization of the Fayetteville church. "[We] have seen something of their struggles against dense forests, want of roads, swollen streams, wild beasts, want of houses in which to worship, capacity of ministers and strong opposition of the anti-missionary wing of the denomination." In the 30 years after the first church was started, Arkansas Baptists grew sufficiently to form a statewide organization by 1848, three years after the southwide Southern Baptist Convention was established in Augusta, Georgia.

Deacon W. S. Campbell of First Baptist Church analyzed the priority early residents gave to starting new churches after arriving in Fayetteville. "Bible, belief, convictions, rode the lumbering vans of stake drivers. The first gestures of necessity made, and feelings of permanence abiding, songs of praise for blessings arose," he said, describing the various churches organized. "Missionaries like Washburne, Hill, Sawyer, and later, preachers like Carhanan, Buchanan, Hunter, Johnson, Graham, Mayes, Scull, Ewing, Smythe, came with their gospel messages, and enthusiasm, and stirred the people to constitute churches, and erect houses of worship," he wrote, including a long-time pastor of First Baptist in the list.[2]

In 1840 the government reported 425 people living in Fayetteville. Prof. T. B. Van Horne had emerged as a proponent of education among the 2,607 residents present in 1850. While teaching at Arkansas College, Prof. Van Horne requested a charter for an institute that would extend educational opportunity to women.

Elder Mayes moved closer to Fayetteville in 1850, making the distance to his home church of Mt. Zion much further. The Mayes home on the southeast edge beyond the city limits of Fayetteville was situated near the Yell home and south of the Walker residence. Elder Mayes and Prof. Van Horne were anxious to see a Baptist congregation established among the

churches already begun by Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Disciples of Christ. In just a few years, Elder Bootright would join them in the effort, serving as a missionary for the Fayetteville United Baptist Association where Elder Mayes was the clerk and Prof. Van Horne was the moderator.

After 20 years of gaining "profound respect" in several counties and associations of Tennessee, Elder Bootright resigned the largest church in that state's Northern Baptist Association. His missionary journey through Northwest Arkansas carried him from Madison County to as far west as the Cherokee Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After pastoring briefly at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, he became a missionary for the Fayetteville United Baptist Association in Northwest Arkansas under appointment of the White River Arkansas Baptist Convention.

It was during a meeting of White River Baptist Association at Batesville Baptist Church on Nov. 10, 1854 that Elder Bootright provided a summary of his labors done during the previous seven months. This program discovered by a local church historian provided a firm founding date of August 1854, correcting the often cited, but mistaken date of 1857 recorded in early histories of the Fayetteville church. Referring to churches that he assisted in organizing, Elder Bootright described "one in the vicinity of Fayetteville, organized in August 1854 with nine members, 5 males and 4 females." He listed, "Elder T. B. Van Horne, its minister and member, who is a teacher in the Arkansas College, at Fayetteville, Professor of Languages, and John Mayes, Deacon and Licentiate."

The forty-four-year-old Mayes and his wife, Sarah, daughter Martha and son W.Z. "Zebe" were among the charter members of a new congregation to be known as Fayetteville Missionary Baptist Church in August of 1854. They offered their house as one of several homes used for meetings of the new congregation. Also included in the charter membership were T. B. Van Horne, John W. Buie, Mrs. Clara A. Watson, Edward

Peer, and Peer's fiancée, Amanda. The organizational meeting may have occurred at the home of either Peer or Mayes.

Elder Bootright's detailed annual report accounts for his preaching 80 sermons, delivering 15 exhortations and one address, baptizing 17 people, receiving 20 people by letter, praying with 49 families, making 680 family visits, holding "special conversations" with 86 people, visiting seven churches and 14 stations, administering the Lord's Supper at five churches, organizing one Sabbath school and four churches, as well as noting that 22 persons professed faith in Christ at the meetings he attended. "For the performance of the submitted report, I thank God," Elder Bootright added. During this time he received $5.25 "from my people," gave 91 volumes and 2,521 pages of tracts, and traveled 2,278 miles.

"All the churches organized with my assistance, are in a locality in a hopeful condition, situated in an intelligent community," he said, describing the region of Fayetteville. Elder Bootright continued, describing "a dense population around them, and where Baptist principles are evidently advancing over the strong holds of Pedo Hierarchy," referring to the practice of infant baptism. The insistence on a person being old enough to sincerely profess faith in Jesus Christ was a peculiar distinction of Baptists when set against the practice of Presbyterians, Methodists, and Episcopalians who preceded them in Fayetteville.

As an example of just how critically Baptists regarded this doctrine, Missionary Bootright expressed concern that a new Baptist church at nearby Evansville (west of Fayetteville) was "in the midst of a Pedo community, who are beginning to prop themselves and [their] cause, fearing that the few Baptist[s] will demolish their strong holds." Elder Bootright saw the safeguard against such heresy to be a regular diet of "the sincere milk of the word." He rejoiced "to see the darkness receding, and a greater oneness of mind in the churches and associations,"

longing for the day "when the churches will not only admit the propriety of sending out and sustaining Missionaries, but also have a mind to work—all of them," he added.[3]

"Then, and not til then, can all the destitute in Northwest Arkansas be supplied. For what I have done can scarcely be seen by a common eye, where there is so much want everywhere to be seen. Those who stay about their farms cannot nor will not believe the call is as great on them to preach the Gospel to the destitute as those who mingle in the different neighborhoods, and listen to the many pathetic appeals to come." Until then, Elder Bootright pledged his willingness to "cover those deficiencies with the veil of charity."

Elder Bootright said he had been blessed with "an unexpected share of health" during the year that the Fayetteville church was organized, though compelled to "stop and nurse up" after an "attack of summer sickness of about two weeks." Cognizant of the meager pay he had collected, Elder Bootright closed, "I perhaps, am less disappointed, than others would have been under different circumstances. I have done all that I have done as unto the Lord, not for what was expected by way of remuneration, but to open the way for others, that a greater and more lasting good might be realized. Which I sincerely hope will be."

In his report on the organization of Fayetteville First Missionary Baptist Church in 1854, Elder Bootright identified Thomas B. Van Horne as the pastor. He served for six years and was an active participant in associational and state convention Baptist life. The 33-year old native from Ohio and his wife, Margaret, had a son after the church was formed. At the time of the 1860 census the household also included two teenaged Indian girls, as well as two adult women, both music teachers.

Pastor Van Horne served as moderator of Fayetteville United Baptist Association when Elder Mayes was clerk. Elder Bootright's name also continues to turn up in associational notes

as he moved on to pastor other churches. At the 1860 associational meeting, Pastor Van Horne offered the introductory sermon titled "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you." That same year the local association was encouraged to join with Mount Zion Association in forming North-Western Arkansas Missionary Baptist Association.

It was in his role as an educator that Pastor Van Horne was better known in the history of Fayetteville. He assisted in the creation of many schools, including Arkansas College and Fayetteville Female Institute. After founder Sophia Sawyer died in 1854, Professor Van Horne secured a legislative charter in 1858 for the Institute. Located on the northwest corner of College and Dickson where First Baptist Church now stands, the two-story frame building with a tall spire was described by W. S. Campbell as "a pretentious building." Another source simply called the building "lovely." Early Fayetteville resident Marion Tebbetts wrote in her journal about attending the school.

The date given in later references for the constitution of First Missionary Baptist Church is 1859. Members met in homes in the valley south of Fayetteville. Associational records for that year report 12 baptisms and three new members received by letter in with a total membership of 43. When the Institute's charter was changed in 1861 to Northwestern Arkansas Baptist Female Institute, the act of incorporation included a section that specified it could be used as a church house. The Baptists accepted Educator Van Horne's invitation to worship in the school building.

As an early leader in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Van Horne joined with other Baptists in the state to sign the convention's official charter in 1859, over a decade after the state convention organized. Pastor Van Horne argued that Baptist polity required more from individual church members than any other denomination, necessitating education for lay members as well as ministers. All members must be

prepared for "the conflict between truth and error, now raging fiercely," he claimed, calling for leadership trained to defend truth. He drew a contrast between the way Baptists and Roman Catholics approached church polity and principles, adding that the two contested for Arkansas.

Pastor Van Horne insisted that learning sustains Baptist beliefs. Therefore, ministers "should be able to render this learning available for the maintenance of our principles." He preferred that young ministers be trained "at home" so that their service would not be lost when they left the state for their education. His argument won the day as the state convention began raising funds for a Baptist college.

After the Fayetteville church began meeting in the Institute, John Mayes began serving as pastor. Former pastor Van Horne returned to Ohio where he enlisted in the Union Army as a chaplain. Around 1862 the occupation of Fayetteville by Union troops disrupted services between 1863 and 1866 as assembly for worship was forbidden. The Institute was taken over by the Union as a military arsenal and cartridge manufactory. Church records likely were destroyed in the explosion of shells that resulted when the building was torched in early 1863. Ten days later Arkansas College was destroyed. On April 18, 1863, the intersection of College Avenue and Dickson Street was the site of fierce fighting between Union and Confederate soldiers. Later accounts described it as Bloody Corner.

Another casualty of the war was the endowment raised for the state Baptist college for which Pastor Van Horne had lobbied. Still, his insistence on a biblically literate congregation remained a lasting priority for his Fayetteville parishioners.

During those years of the Civil War, Pastor Mayes was separated from his family. According to W. S. Campbell, he held some type of official position that, when coupled with threats against his life, did not allow him to cross the valley southeast of town to his log home for two years. Instead, his family could

come to the Square to see him. Pastor Mayes's daughter later related that her father was stationed in the old Masonic Hall on South Block Street and would go to the hill near the old White Mill on Willow Street, likely the peak at the corner of College and Rock, to observe his family at home. She said he could look over into the valley at the foot of South Mountain and see his children playing in the yard and know they were all right.

When members reassembled at the war's end, Pastor Mayes was a part of the congregation of First Missionary Baptist Church. Soon after he organized and pastored Sulphur City Baptist Church in 1866. During that year James Isaacs served as pastor of the new Fayetteville church, having served alongside Pastor Mayes in organizing the church at Sulphur City. At first only nine of the scattered members of First Missionary Baptist Church were present, but within a month thirty more were added. By the time of the report to the North Western Arkansas Missionary Baptist Association that fall, the church reported to have 47 members, having baptized 27, and receiving three by letter and six by voucher. Apparently Isaacs had the confidence of the association as well, as he was elected moderator of that body in 1866. They returned to their habit of meeting in various homes, but soon took their turn among many denominations meeting in the Masonic Hall at the corner of South Block Street and West Rock Streets until 1879.

John Mayes is again listed as the pastor from 1867–1878. He represented the church at the organization of Bentonville Baptist Association in 1868 but is not listed among its ordained ministers. At that time the associational records indicate that Pastor Mayes was paid $55.25, a few dollars less than the highest paid minister, who was at Pea Ridge. The church baptized nine people that year, bringing the total membership to 68. Associational minutes for 1867 report the death in May of Elder C. H. Bootright, the Tennessee preacher who immigrated

to Arkansas in 1850 and helped establish the work at Fayetteville. He was 70 years of age.

It is uncertain at what point the church became known as First Baptist Church, but it may have happened in 1869 when the minutes of the Bentonville Baptist Association include the question being raised, "Shall we be known as Missionary or United Baptists?" After discussion, members present at the associational meeting recommended that the churches within that association simply designate themselves as Baptist."

As a master mechanic and carpenter, Elder Mayes was also qualified to help in the construction of a building that the church could call their own. In 1879 he provided much of the labor for a new facility situated at 223 N. College Avenue (where the Sands Motel once stood and now a paved lot provides parking for the Episcopal Church.) Built at a cost of just $1,500, it is assumed that much of the labor and materials were donated. The small frame church had a bell tower over the vestibule. Membership numbered about 100 at this time.

The long-time president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, Rev. James P. Eagle of Lonoke, Ark., dedicated the new facility. Later, Eagle served as governor of Arkansas as well as three terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was a cousin to First Baptist member J. D. Eagle.

Along with a new building, First Baptist Church had a new pastor in 1879, Rev. Thomas Pleasant Boone, a well-established leader among Arkansas Baptists. He was described as a fine singer, a good speaker, and a very popular pastor of churches in Jackson and White Counties in Arkansas. Just before serving First Baptist of Fayetteville, Rev. Boone pastored First Baptist Church of Springdale for a few months. Little is known about his ministry at Fayetteville other than his dates of service from 1879 to 1881, the year in which he died. Once again members turned to the John Mayes to fill the pulpit until another pastor could be found.

Information about the church is sketchy during its second quarter century, with few records available. The church followed the habit of most Southern Baptist churches in the region by employing pastors for two-year periods. Pastors of this era received very little pay, typically $10 to $20 for an entire year's work.

What follows is an overview of the pastors who served between 1881 and 2004, based upon the new church history titled *One Faith, One Hope, One Hundred Fifty Years: The History of First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas.* The titles used in references to pastors are drawn from the wording used in historical documents from that time.

One of the most appropriately named pastors was Baptist Wreothelsey Noel Simms who served from 1881 until 1883. C. W. Callahan of Eureka Springs began pastoring in 1884 and was described as a strong advocate of Sunday School. Martin L. Ball was a seminary-educated pastor who began in 1885 and went on to Jonesboro two years later. Dr. B. G. Maynard followed him in 1888 and lived in a parsonage located on the northwest corner of College Avenue and Dickson Street. He had served as the president of a Baptist college in Tennessee. At the time of his arrival, the Fayetteville church had a membership of 118.

Former pastor John Mayes died on Oct. 26, 1889 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. During his lifetime the farmer and carpenter pastored nine churches. He organized two of those he pastored as well as two others led by other pastors. The November 1, 1889, obituary in the *Fayetteville Democrat* read, "Another of the golden links that bind together two generations is broken. 'Uncle Johnny' is done with life's labors, toils and struggles. He walks no more in our midst. On last Saturday's golden morning he entered his long-sought-for rest." Dr. Maynard described how Mayes called his loved ones to his side near the end of his life, desiring to offer a final testimony. "I have this day reviewed my whole life and have never shared in

such ecstatic joy. All is well with me. The Lord is my God. His goodness in sparing me when a hardened sinner, never appeared so precious before. My soul breaks forth in joyous praise to Him for His marvelous goodness and mercy to me. My work is done. But my hope is steadfast. Be cheerful. Let there be no doubt as to your new birth, all will be well. Dismiss all distress about me. Don't grieve. Go on about your cares. May hope sustain me," he was quoted as saying. Dr. Maynard wrote of the immense audience of all denominations assembling at the church and later the cemetery as "a fitting tribute to so worthy a character," providing "comfort for the bereaved, inspiration for the Christian. and a voice to the un-saved."

From 1890 to 1892, John W. Lipsey pastored the church. "He is a preacher of rare ability, very forcible and earnest in manner, and abounding in argument and strong reason," wrote one biographer. "He is a man of strong convictions and has the courage of his convictions. Boldly preaching from strong convictions of truth of course makes some bitter enemies as well as strong friends," the writer stated.

Jefferson Davis Cook pastored from 1893 to 1895 and then returned to Alabama. Thomas O. Harris pastored from 1895 to 1897. During these years, church minutes describe the important role that women played in church life. They were sent out to collect the pastor's salary of $50 per month while other women visited delinquent subscribers.

Francis Bozeman, pastored from 1897 to 1900, with 141 resident members at the time. In his "First Anniversary Sermon," the pastor based his message on the brief passage of 1 Samuel 7:12, describing the ways in which the Lord had helped First Baptist Church of Fayetteville. Reverend Bozeman recognized human effort, stating that it would be hard to use words too strong in testimony to the work of some in that household of faith during his first year of ministry there. "How faithful they have been! How constant in devotion, how tireless in service,

how Christ-like in character!" Of other members, he said, there is no such record. "Some of them have not so much as lifted the tip of the finger to advance the cause of truth during the past year."

Harvey Beauchamp pastored from 1900 to 1902. He was credited with having introduced "graded Sunday School," according to a Southern Baptist educator. "It goes without saying that all members of the church should study the Word of God," Beauchamp wrote. "They will never be too old nor too well versed in the Scriptures to study the Bible any longer. The church school will be the greatest help to such study."

On July 10, 1901, the *Fayetteville Democrat* reported the death of Edward Peer, probably the last of the church's charter members. He was described as "one of the best citizens of our county and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

J. E. Denham pastored from 1903 to 1905 after serving numerous churches in Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. University of Arkansas president Harry Herzog was a member of the church during this time.

First Baptist selected a well-educated and widely traveled man for its next pastor. Dr. Walter Andrew Whittle served from 1906 to 1909 and was described as "a beloved leader and an enthusiastic administrator, as well as a person of deep spiritual power." Soon after coming, Dr. Whittle "began agitation for erection of a new church," according to Deacon W. S. Campbell. The old building was sold and a new site obtained to the north where First Baptist Church would establish a lasting presence on the corner of College and Dickson Streets. The 150 members secured a building contract in 1907 for $38,000, constructing an auditorium and educational space that would stand for 52 years. Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, traveled to Fayetteville by train to preach the dedicatory sermon. Upon learning that a debt of $8,000 remained on the building,

Dr. Truett made it clear that he disliked preaching in churches that were indebted.

"The hour was tense. Throngs were turned away because of lack of seating capacity—word had been passed that Truett had vowed to lift this debt," according to Campbell. "As he arose in the pulpit to intone the prayer of dedication, silence fell upon the people. So profound were his words, so moved were the people, that no sound save sobs and falling tears marred the spiritual fellowship of those unforgettable moments.

"The speaker brushed aside his tears, gave one all-inclusive look of appraisal of the interior and of the people whose heroism and sacrifices had brought it to a climax that would not be denied, and said, 'Behold what God hath wrought—who can deny Him now? Shall we pay this debt now?' In twenty minutes the sum was pledged and the glory song from that throng all but lifted the great dome!"

Murray Smart, a member of First Baptist Church since 1966, recognized the distinctiveness of the new structure. Having taught architecture at the University of Arkansas, he explained the building's design by architect J. E. Flanders of Dallas as reflecting the colonial revival that spread across the country after the Columbian exposition of 1893 in Chicago. "The fair buildings had created a glorious 'white city' of classical buildings featuring domes and numerous colonnades of Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian columns at colossal scale." Adding that the Greeks and Romans never needed buildings like these and thus there were no true classical prototypes for exhibition buildings of the type and size needed at the fair.

The exhibition buildings featured functional modern plan-forms liberally decorated with classical elements and the new structure of First Baptist Church followed this pattern. A plan popularized in Baptist circles at that time featured an auditorium that took the form of a half or quarter circle with the pulpit and choir in the vertex or center of the straight side, Smart explained.

The congregation surrounded the pulpit in curving pews. "This plan made the sight and sound distance of the congregation from the pastor and choir minimal and fostered the 'family fellowship' so desired by Baptist churches."

Smart described the auditorium as nearly square with one corner. It was curved on the southeast side at the intersection of Dickson and College Streets. "Above the center of the sanctuary was a circular stained glass ceiling that marked the location of the exterior dome on the interior. Two large arched pictorial stained glass windows decorated the east and south facades of the building. Classical buildings—Greek, Roman and Renaissance—had not used stained glass because a bright, even interior illumination had been desired," Mr. Smart explained. "With the Gothic revival that characterized the third decade of the nineteenth century, stained glass was reintroduced to church buildings."

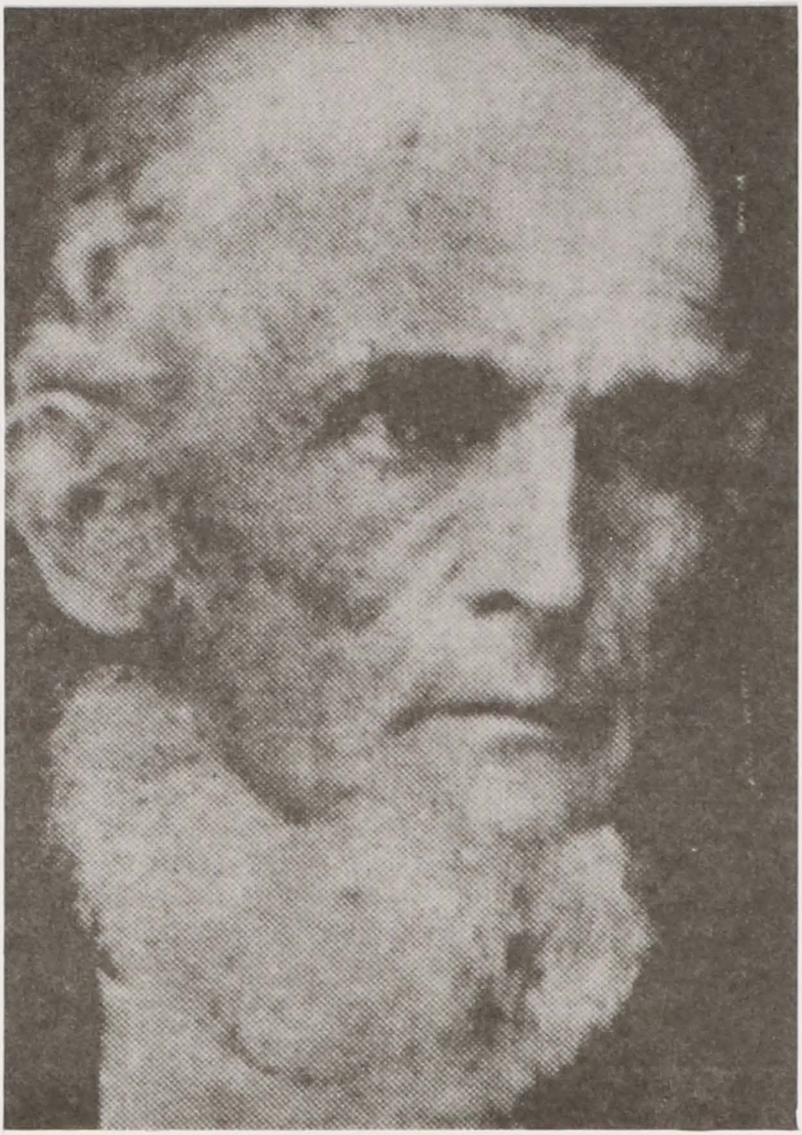
Pictorial windows were further popularized by the developments of the great late nineteenth century American stained-glass studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany and John LaFarge in New York, as well as many less well-known studios established across nearly every urban center, Mr. Smart explained. He speculated that the Fayetteville windows were made in St. Louis where a thriving stained-glass studio was located. "Consequently the tradition of using stained glass for church windows was retained in colonial revival buildings long after the Gothic revival had waned."

The most distinguishing features of the church were the dome and the curved entrance, borrowing directly from the classical tradition, as did the temple pediments that capped the east and south walls and the pedimented doorframes between the Ionic columns of the three entrance doors in the colonnade on the corner. The domed building was often featured on picture postcards of the era as well as other historical publications.

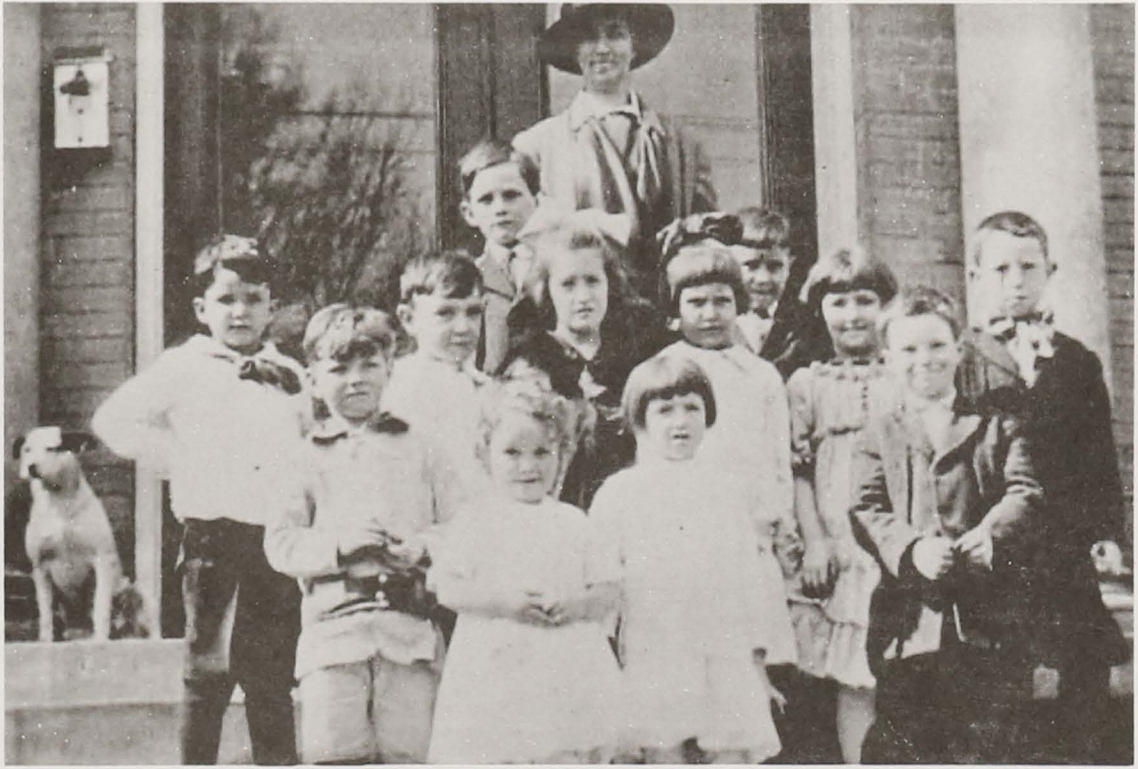
Behind the pulpit were the exposed pipes of the organ that had been given by philanthropist John D. Rockefeller in 1908. The Grand Bennett tubular-pneumatic organ was built in Chicago and was the largest instrument in the region until an organ was acquired for the University of Arkansas Fine Arts Center.

The Ladies Aid Society labored to furnish the church, support the cause of missions, and meet specific needs of the congregation. One longtime member, Mrs. Bert Lewis, recalled loading her fringe-topped surrey with groceries in order to travel to the Washington County Courthouse where she helped to prepare meals. Mrs. W. E. McWhorter transported her three-burner oil stove to the site, pushing it in a baby carriage. Other women joined in the labor of cooking the food that was sold for a quarter a meal from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. whenever court was in session. They contributed all of the proceeds to continue furnishing the new church building. A local resident remembered hearing her mother tell how she and her twin brother sold homemade hominy out of a red wagon that they pulled to the square. They contributed the money earned to pay for a small window in the church. Not long after the church was occupied, the famous orator William Jennings Bryan came to Fayetteville while campaigning for the United States presidency. Members of his political party secured permission to use the auditorium for Bryan's speech since it was the largest assembly area in the city.

M. L. Shepherd served as pastor from 1911 to 1912, followed by O. P. Bishop from 1913-1914. Marion Palmer Hunt pastored from 1914 to 1916. He offered exhortations in each of the newsletters, stating on one occasion, "We are not going to hide it, Wednesday night we had hoped for a large attendance at prayer meeting and lo, on looking over the 40 or 50 that were present, we missed the following from the regular," going on to list the names of eight families. "Perhaps all had good reasons



John Mayes, pastor from 1860–1862; 1867–1878.



A children's Sunbeam band gathered on the steps of the church in 1912 (Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Campbell Collection, MC1427).

A photo taken in the 1940s shows the church from the northeast corner. The tree-lined College Avenue provided on-the-street outside the auditorium.

The deacons and pastor of First Baptist Church in 1917 included (top row, left to right) F. W. Pigkel, biology professor; Bert Lewis, banker; W. M. Briscoe, Germanic languages professor; (middle row) A. D. Weir, farmer and evangelist; James R. Grant, psychology professor; W. S. Campbell, businessman; H. J. Deyer, grocer; R. E. Wages, contractor; Henry Bossmeyer, decorator; (bottom row) J. E. Vaughan, liveryman; John R. Harris, banker; L. E. Barton, pastor, Homer L Pearson, lawyer; and C. H. Brough, governor-elect of Arkansas.

for absence. Anyway, the preacher had a might depressed feeling, and was found asking himself some mighty serious questions. Oh, for a great prayer meeting." He admitted that his "depression" was compounded when some of the young people came for a committee meeting and "did not stay for the meeting of meetings."

The schedule of service lists during Dr. Hunt's tenure listed Sunday School beginning at 9:30 followed by an 11 a.m. service which included an organ prelude, invocation, hymn, Scripture lesson, another hymn, prayer, announcements, offering, anthem, sermon, closing hymn and benediction. The evening service is similar with Baptist Young People's Union meeting beforehand at 6:30 p.m. The remainder of the inside pages offer exhortations from the pastor, reports on the sick that include very specific descriptions of their ailments, a mention of visitors, progress on various fronts, an occasional listing of those who have paid toward their pledges with the amounts listed. The back page is set aside for a few dozen businesses to offer advertising at $3 per line. These ads featured banks, dentists, drug stores, grocery stores, abstract companies, hardware stores, a veterinarian, a marble and granite works, plumber, cafe, cleaners, shoe store, clothing stores, and even an eggery that featured "honest fresh eggs."

Debates on various topics were hosted at the church and the pastor often participated. One resolution debated by Dr. Hunt and Deacon W. S. Campbell considered whether "a permanent peace of our nation demands the enlargement of our naval and military forces." Taking the negative position, the pastor and deacon claimed victory. On other occasions spelling bees were offered, using the *Old Blue Back Speller*.

On April 18, 1915, the deacon board unanimously endorsed Pastor Hunt "in his preaching to the people on the streets of Fayetteville." A few weeks later the pastor was instructed by the deacons to buy a clock for the church. The bulletin explained

that this was for the purpose of dismissing services promptly at noon for the sake of transporting dormitory students at the time promised.

Arkansas native L. E. Barton pastored from 1916–1918. One long-time member recalled that Dr. Barton drew some criticism for having a daughter who participated in local dances at a time when Baptists criticized the activity. The 46-year-old pastor was described as coming from "rugged, honest mountaineer, pure-blooded Anglo-Saxon stock" in one biography. "He knows no fear, neither of men or devils, and no man has risen so high that Dr. Barton's arrows of rebuke cannot reach him, if his life and conduct are dishonest or misleading to the public mind and conscience."

Charles Hillman Brough, an economics professor at the University of Arkansas since 1903 and deacon chairman of First Baptist was elected governor, serving from 1917 to 1921. While a member of the Fayetteville church, his Young Men's Sunday School Class had a membership of 125 men. He was often the subject of prayer support in deacons' meetings and church services during this time. Brough refused the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's demand for a state law against the teaching of evolution in the public schools. Described as a theistic evolutionist, he stood on one side of the argument against the *Baptist Advance* editor and ABSC General Secretary J. S. Rogers.

Also a member during this era was Judge John N. Tillman, circuit judge for the northwest district, who was named president of the University of Arkansas and then served five terms in Congress.

H. H. Burton served as pastor just a year, from 1919 to 1920, leaving to pastor First Baptist Church of Springdale. The active membership of the church at the time was reported at 373 with 37 people received by letter, 36 baptized and four restored to fellowship.

B. L. Ayers pastored from 1921 to 1923 and the deacons' minutes often reveal their great appreciation for his ministry. The church's budget in 1921 was $6,250, providing an increase in the pastor's salary to $2,500. On November 7, 1921 the deacons passed a resolution of thanks and congratulations for Pastor Ayres' first year of service, stating, "He has by, and with the Lord's omnipotent direction, added one hundred new members to this church body, given great spiritual vision to our membership, been an earnest, zealous contender for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints, and made himself all things to all men to the end that God is honored in our midst." The members were encouraged to extend to Ayers and "his good wife who has so faithfully aided him their gratitude and assurance of loyal devotion, first to the eternal truth and then to our pastor and his leadership."

A Men's Bible Class offered at Victory Theater in Fayetteville was drawing over 100 men each week by the middle of 1923. Taught by Pastor Ayers, the outreach effort yielded frequent conversions. Of the 390 attending Sunday School on May 6, 1925, 125 were enrolled in the extension class at the theater.

Charles Estes Wilbanks came on February 10, 1924, preaching his first message to the congregation on Psalm 90:2. He served until 1926. About 20 years later he returned to serve First Baptist Church of Springdale as pastor.

Frank W. Carnett preached his first sermon on February 28, 1926, from Romans 12:1. The church found it difficult to keep up with the budget during this time. In early 1927, the pastor reduced his own salary by ten percent and eliminated a portion of the clerical assistance in order to bring the budget in line with anticipated receipts.

In 1928, W. S. Campbell described Fayetteville as one of the best church-going towns in the state. "No matter how prejudiced men and women may be about Christianity, they

recognize its force in life, and prefer to own property in a God-fearing town, and certainly will not advise their offspring to go into a Godless community to make a home. Soon after the University came here whiskey and saloons were voted out of town. There are no segregated districts. We are not prudish, but we are decent, and strive for ideals if we never attain them."

James Thornwell Gillespie was called on April 7, 1929, preaching his first sermon from 2 Corinthians 6:17. The Gillespies and their seven children lived next door to the church in a parsonage located where the educational building now stands.

From 1936 to 1940, Dr. Blake Smith served as pastor, delivering his first sermon from Numbers 13:30-33. A former member recalled being baptized by Smith and the powerful influence he had on her life. "He was dynamic, intellectual, a caring pastor, and very personable." She recalled church services under his tenure as being very formal with Dr. Smith wearing a clerical robe or a frock-tail coat with gray striped trousers. "His sermons were fast-paced, intellectually challenging, with great spiritual depth. He was appealing to college students and University faculty and they attended in large numbers, she added.

Dr. Oscar Lee Gibson served from 1940 until 1947, offering a message on Acts 2:40 when he first came to the church. He supported broadcasting the church's services on the radio, raising funds for a new educational building, hiring an education director, and developing a mission on the south side.

In October of 1947 the 46-year old Dr. Walter L. Johnson preached his first sermon from Colossians 1:18 and received a unanimous call to pastor First Baptist Church. His radio messages and newspaper editorials addressed current issues such as alcohol, communism, divorce, and racial integration.

In spite of the excitement of a growing congregation requiring expanded facilities, discord arose after the unusual

"five-year contract" Dr. Johnson had with the church expired. Efforts to resolve differences failed. Dr. Johnson informed the church of his resignation in a March 29, 1953, telegram and described a call to University Baptist Church where he pastored for 12 years as "a great opportunity." Both First Baptist and University Baptist have thrived and gone forward in their ministries in spite of the division that produced two strong churches out of one. "Who knows? Could the Lord have permitted such a thing to fulfill his purpose?" concluded one writer who experienced this difficult phase of the church's history.

Members who were present in 1953 when the pastor and 176 members departed to form a new church describe it as a sad time in the church's history. Every active member knew someone who had left over the struggle between pastor and people. Longtime friends who enjoyed serving alongside one another separated, but still lived in the same town.

The church called a 32-year-old native Arkansan, Dr. Andrew Hall. He began his ministry on August 16, 1953, with a sermon from I Corinthians 13. "I suppose that sermon on love was what the people needed to hear on that day." With patience and a sense of priorities, Dr. Hall guided the church through the difficulties that resulted from the departure of the former pastor and many members. "The people were just as eager to put that behind them as I was, and that was my strategy," he said.

Growth in every age group necessitated adding a second worship service at 8:30 a.m. by the fall of 1955. Members started several new churches, including Ridgeview Baptist Mission in July 1956 two miles east on Highway 16 East. By Feb. 5, 1961, the church constituted as an independent church with 61 members representing 30 families, and a strong ministry continues today under the leadership of a former FBC, Fayetteville, member.

The Baptist Student Union dedicated a new student center on March 11, 1958 with both Dr. Hall and Dr. Johnson participating in the service. Construction of the facility was a cooperative funding effort of area churches, the local association and state convention.

"It was a time of churchgoing," Dr. Hall remembered. "You could have an after-church gathering and serve pink lemonade and soggy cake and have 200 kids show up." The church and city had quadrupled in size since the domed building was erected in 1908. At a May 9, 1956, business meeting the building committee proposed constructing a new worship center.

The new sanctuary tripled the size of the seating space. Including the balcony, the new building accommodated 1,250 people comfortably, with the possibility of another 200 if necessary. The rectangular configuration makes the sanctuary almost twice as long as it is wide, with three banks of pews—a center section with a flanking section on either side. A raised chancel accommodates a choir of 54 persons. A central pulpit is located on the platform behind a large brick planter. The stained glass is a Modrian-like pattern of rectangular pieces of glass in various sizes. Originally the lower portion of this facade had four sets of double doors. However, the widening of College Avenue encroached so near the building that it made the use of the doors impractical, so they were replaced by fixed glass panels.

Dr. W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, delivered the dedicatory sermon titled "As the Glory of the Lord" at a May 1, 1960, service. Russell Oldham led the Chancel Choir in "Almighty, God of Our Fathers" with Gladys Sonneman offering accompaniment on the new French Canadian Casavant organ. Secured at somewhere between $40,000 and $50,000, replacement cost was estimated at well over half a million dollars few decades later. The lot across Dickson Street

on the south was purchased from McIlroy Bank for $18,000 to provide additional parking.

When the old building was razed, the pictorial stained glass windows representing biblical scenes were offered to several members. Several panels were returned to the church years later in order to be redisplayed during the sesquicentennial celebration, including a 6'x 6' window depicting Jesus in the Temple, as well as a set of panels. Seven of the pipes from the old organ are displayed in the History Room, recovered and donated from a salvage yard south of Fayetteville, with a smaller one given by a local organ historian. Also in the library is the old wooden pulpit from which 14 pastors had delivered sermons. It had been used for many years by Ridgeview Baptist Church. A church at Combs acquired the wooden pews, later selling some to Western Hills Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Members of that church on Fayetteville's west side agreed to donate one of the pews for display at First Baptist near the history room. An arch that once stood at the church entrance and some of the cobblestone steps were carefully moved to the driveway of a church member who was in charge of the project. They can still be seen in the 400 block of North Street near Lakeshore Drive.

The next pastor to serve was Leighton Paige Patterson, who began his ministry on July 26, 1970. He preached in view of a call from I Peter 5:1 on the morning of July 25, and then offered an exegesis of Hebrews 12 during the evening service. In her description of the young 27-year old pastor, Mary Evelyn Duncan wrote, "Paige was grounded in biblical truths which gave him a wisdom beyond his years." She praised his total commitment to missions, adding that he said he would never preach a sermon that did not fully cover the plan of salvation. She predicted that his influence would be felt worldwide, noting the number of young people who responded to the call for dedicated service during his pastorate.

The Play Learn School for preschoolers began in May of 1971 with Baptist Women providing financial support, supervision and volunteer help. First called a Mother's Day Out, it was designed to give mothers an opportunity to leave their children in a learning environment while they shopped, ran errands or simply took the day off. The children enjoyed creative play, music, and crafts. The school eventually offered women the option of enrolling their children for two, three, or five days with four to six hours per day.

Dr. Nathan Larry Baker pastored from 1975 to 1978. With the country celebrating the bicentennial in 1976, the pastor led the church to join other Arkansas Baptists to adopt a yearlong emphasis in seeing that "all Arkansas have [*sic*] the good news of Jesus Christ shared with them." The effort began with a prayer vigil involving 200 participants, enlistment of 250 pastor's prayer partners, and planning for a weeklong revival in April. One of the most enduring aspects of Dr. Baker's ministry was a visitation outreach known as the Andrew Club. Based on John 1:41-42, he described the example of the disciple Andrew bringing people to Jesus.

The longest tenured pastor was Dr. Jere D. Mitchell who served from 1979 until 2001. Having described Dr. Hall's work with the church and community as legendary, Dr. Patterson as having a missions focus and evangelistic zeal, and Dr. Baker as being empathetic, Mary Evelyn Duncan offered this assessment of Dr. Mitchell. "His own man, well-versed in the Scriptures, with an uncanny ability to remember names and voices, Dr. Mitchell is already firmly ensconced as our pastor, in every sense of the word. The church is moving forward. The Jordan has been crossed and we are now in the Hallelujah Hills."

At this stage of the church's history, the programs and activities included morning and evening worship services each Sunday, Sunday School, training on Sunday evenings, in addition to Wednesday Family Night featuring dinner, Bible

study, Sunday School worker preparation, children's choir rehearsals and mission education, youth ministry, praise and prayer service, and adult choir rehearsal. Other ministry opportunities included ladies' weekday Bible study and mission meetings, nursing home outreach, weekday Play Learn School for preschoolers, and regular meetings for international students. Outreach to university students featured Bible study, fellowship, visitation, and retreats. Bible study, small group meetings, retreats, fellowship, and choir were provided for youth. Additional music ministry utilized handbells and vocal ensembles.

In 1991 the church authorized a building committee to begin plans for a multi-purpose building and prepare recommendations for modifications of released space in the existing building. Dedicated on June 4, 1995, the new building housed an administrative office suite, a choir suite, new space for youth, a commercial kitchen, and a multi-purpose space that would seat 350 to 400 people for a meal or could be used for basketball, volleyball, and children's activities. The library was relocated to the lower floor near the southwest entry in a larger space that allowed for a History Room to be included. A total of 17,950 square feet of new space was provided with 18,434 square feet renovated. "Find Us Faithful" culminated in April 1996 with $888,716 given over the next three-year period to pay on the remaining debt. Later, church property was extended to the north with the purchase of the Goff-McNair auto dealership building and parking lots in late 2000.

Thirty-four year old Douglas Falknor was named pastor in July of 2001. He has maintained the church's evangelistic priority and with a large portion of the budget devoted to mission support and ministries around the world, the church remains committed to maintaining existing ministries while also looking forward to new opportunities. The Korean congregation meeting in the north building is another joint venture of First

Baptist, the association, state convention, and North American Mission Board. Partnership in Korean, Chinese, and Hispanic ministries continues as a priority of Pastor Falknor.

One hundred and fifty years ago, when Elder C.H. Bootright assessed the potential of the first Baptist church in Fayetteville, he predicted, "They will no doubt be instrumental in rearing a large church there, to the praise of Christ." In celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary this year, his vision has been realized as diverse individuals from all walks of life worship and serve together for the cause of Christ.

Through the years thousands of boys and girls, men and women who sincerely professed faith in Christ before the Fayetteville congregation were granted membership. They came from sister churches of similar faith and practice or expressed a conversion to faith in Christ before the membership. For 150 years generations of baptized believers have gathered as a local family of faith. Some, like the evangelist Chesley Howard Bootright, were involved briefly. Nonetheless, his sacrifice in traveling a long distance by horse-drawn wagon to join with local citizens in starting the church is significant. Leaders like Thomas B. Van Horne established a strong foundation before returning to homes far away. And men and women like John and Sarah Mayes remained on the scene until they passed on, always ready to lend a hand to keep the church on track.

Many, many others joined the local Baptist church upon arriving in Fayetteville and reared families with descendants who remain involved to this day. A great number enjoyed worshiping at First Baptist during their college years, then moved on to apply their training. And many more passed through for only a year or so. Short of eternity, the church will never know the vast number of lives transformed in those brief contacts nor the influence those people had as they went into all the world.

These resources were helpful in preparing this excerpt of *One Faith, One Hope, One Hundred Fifty Years.*

"The First Baptist Church Organized in Washington County," *Flashback*, August 2000, p. 2–17, "Our Baptist Heritage in Northwest Arkansas," Flashback, August, 1985, p. 26–32, and *History of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.* These and other articles by local researcher Lloyd Warren provide context for Baptist history of the region.

"Bootright Family in Madison County," *Madison County Record,* November 25, 1986, by Ruth B. Parker.

A System and a Plan by Fred C. Williams, S. Ray Granade, and Kenneth M. Startup, published by Providence House Publisher, 1998, p. 6.

A History of Our Churches published by Washington-Madison Baptist Association, 1990, p. 5.

Fayetteville, Arkansas in the Civil War by Russell L. Mahan, 2000, p. 46, published by Historical Byways and Washington County Historical Society, provides details regarding fighting that occurred at College and Dickson as well as the impact of the War on the town.

"Historical Records Survey, Arkansas Records, 1935–1942," (MS H62), Box 425, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, includes an account by Mrs. A. W. Conner, a daughter of John Mayes.

THE MYRTLE MCCORMICK PARKS DIARY PART 4

EDITED BY GRETCHEN GEARHART

Editor's note: Myrtle McCormick Parks of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, kept a daily diary for three of her sons who were serving in the armed forces during World War II. Barry and Donald Parks donated the diary to the Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, in 1987. We are most grateful to the Libraries for allowing us to publish excerpts from the diary. I want especially to thank Anne Prichard of the Special Collections staff, Susan Parks-Spencer, granddaughter of Myrtle Parks, and Peggy Parks (Mrs. Donald) for their invaluable assistance with this project.

By way of explanation, Mrs. Parks's husband, James Clay Parks, was president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company, and the family owned the Beverly Theatre on Main Street.

Previous excerpts from the diary appeared in the Autumn 2003, Winter 2004, and Spring 2004 issues of *Flashback*.

Monday, January 1, 1945. Jim[Parks] was late getting in so he went to take Ruth [McCormick] down before he milked. Then he said we didn't have time to eat before going to the show so we waited till we came home. Weldon [Russell] had on his new leather coat, we gave him a check for $18.50 to replace the one ruined by the fire. He seemed happier than any time lately. I didn't care for the show, "And the Angels Sing," but maybe there are those who do. The weather is so cold it affects the attendance, I'm sure. I got a card today from the Quigley Book Store saying that because of paper shortage they couldn't supply us with the Record and Management book that we have used all the time. I don't know what I'm going to do about the book keeping. We had two letters from Donald [Parks]. He said the fire at the theatre had him rather worried and perhaps it would be a good idea to take out some insurance. In the second letter he told of having been called

to the orderly room and asked by the lieutenant if he was a projectionist and if he would run some films that afternoon. Said it made him feel that he was back in Nashville.

Wednesday, January 17. Jim went to Fayetteville to Board Meeting. He took Michael's [Parks] snowsuit to the cleaners. I also sent her little red corduroy dress that she had worn on the train. And I sent the bag for her toidy seat. That seemed kind of silly but who knows–little brother may have to use it too. Michael and I went to see Mama [Mamie McCormick] this afternoon. Mrs. Taylor was there, had come up this morning and Mama had insisted that she stay all day. Mrs. Taylor said Mama had made "chicken pie" out of pork chops that was delicious. She had used Bisquick for the crust. I gave her some not long ago and she is enthusiastic about it. It surely is easy to use. We had letters from Barry [Parks] and Donald today. Barry said he at last had had a letter from me to his new address. It was one of the V-mail but he didn't seem to like the V-Mail as well as the airmail. I had asked him to let me know which he preferred. He said they were pretty lenient about censoring, that by using a little judgement he could write most anything he liked. We had noticed that nothing had been cut out of any of this letters. He said for me to guess where he was, he thought we might have a good idea but I am afraid we haven't. He had a letter from Emma Cook and said he wished she knew how much it meant to him. He said he hadn't flown for more than a week but expected to fly again in a day or two. Donald's was short. He said he, Bill Hauser and Loyd Dovell had gone to town and spent most of the afternoon just walking around in the sunshine. He said he had been on a detail the day before to fold woolen blankets to get them ready to sent to the cleaner and it started him sneezing and he was so uncomfortable he finally had to quit. It stopped when he got away from the blankets so he said he didn't intend to have anything to do with woolen blankets again.

Thursday, January 25. Dolly Anne [McCormick] is having a party for Jean Bennett [young niece of Drs. Frank and Cecil Riggall who had come from England to escape the bombings] who leaves for home next Monday. Ruth said she had invited about 25 youngsters and didn't have plates enough for that many. Mildred had suggested that she serve them in bags, which certainly reduced the chance of breakage and also a lot of dishwashing.

Friday, January 26. Little James Clay Parks' birthday, a very eventful day in our family. James Fay [Parks] called tonight, said the baby arrived at 11:30 and they were both fine. He said he wasn't nearly as pretty as Michael but you never can tell when they are that tiny. He said he didn't have time to get excited–they went to the hospital after 8:00 and the baby was there at 11:30. He weighed 8 pounds and 9 ounces.

Saturday, February 10. Joe [Parks] called today. Says he is being shipped right soon and is going to try to come by home. He is being sent to Wendover Field right on the western edge of Utah. He said the town where the field is only has 140 residents, that all the others have died of lonesomeness. He said he would call us again before he came so we could met him in Westville. He said he had been made Pfc. That it didn't mean much except a little more pay but his dad and I are quite proud of it. / I got a book today that James Fay had sent to me, "The Gentlemen Talk Peace." It looks very interesting but a little heavy for me to digest in the little bits of spare time I might manage. I felt quite flattered that he had thought of me and I surely appreciate it. Looks like the kind of book that will be worthwhile for many years. / We had a letter from Barry. He says it is rather difficult to keep up his letter writing because it is so irregular. Will go for days without getting anything, then a lot all at once, makes him feel that he can't get them answered. James Fay and Janet [Mrs. James Fay Parks] have been wonderful about writing. I'm glad for they both write such fine letters. He says the weather in Italy is said to be the worst in

years, that seems to be true everywhere. I wonder why bad weather seems to go with war. They have electricity in their tent and he says it makes a world of difference in writing and reading, that it had been hard to use the kerosene lamp. He had read *The Robe* by Lloyd C. Douglas lately and told of some of it in his letter. I imagine it makes it more interesting being so near the setting of the book. It has attracted a lot of comment and all that I have heard is favorable. We were so glad to hear again. It seems so long between letters.

Friday, February 23. We had letters from Donald and Barry. Barry's was written the 12th. He said he had been doing very little flying but that ground school and guard duty had caught up with him and he had been quite occupied. He said that when we read that bombers from Italy had hit certain targets it didn't necessarily mean them for it might be medium bombers from the 12th Air Force. That heavy bombers based in Italy or bombers of the 15th Air Force means their group but not always then does it mean that he has been out on that mission for it may not have been their crew's turn to fly. He had spent a night on plane guard in a B-17. Said he took some blankets and was surprised that he slept some. They are allowed to sleep after they have secured all the doors. They have two new boys in their tent and were disappointed to have to take them in. He said they were so comfortable with just the four and had their tent fixed up so nice. He said he realized they were being selfish and that it wasn't the right attitude. He had received a letter from me the day he wrote that was written the 4th and said that was the best time any of them had made. He said there was about ten days of the diary missing so he knew he had not received all my letters, and had just realized that the diary was a good way to keep up with the letters I have written. He said my guess as to where he is was correct and that the boys were not too surprised that I had guessed it. Seem he has been telling them some tall tales about my intelligence. They all declare they are

coming to Arkansas after the war to see his family, he has convinced them it is something special. Poor boys–I hope the shock won't be too great when they meet me. Donald's letter was written before his call. He told about having been alerted and they expected to leave next week. He had spent the afternoon sorting his clothes and equipment and was sending home all the overage. Said he was sending Michael some gum and maybe she wouldn't mind our having some too. Joe had written a line or two on my letter and Donald said it was the first direct word from him in nearly two months and was quite a treat. Urged him to write when he got to Wendover. (Joe says he is ashamed not to write oftener but just doesn't seem to get around to it.) He has been hearing from Barry a lot recently.

Thursday, March 22. The day was beautiful which helped our drooping, lonesome spirits some. Ruth called. Said they thought there should be an item in the paper telling the amount of the collections taken during the week in the theatre for Red Cross. March 15–21 had been set aside by the Motion Picture Industry as Red Cross Week. The response was much better than any of us had expected and amounted to $71.30. The theatre had not given anything during the drive made by the local committee and we decided to write a check making this $80.00. I got the item ready for Jim to take down when he went to town. The Happy Hour Club had a luncheon at Aunt Mattie's [McCormick] in honor of Lutie Cunningham who is visiting from California. / The luncheon was good. They had asked me to bring a lemon pie and I had spent a lot more time making it than I used to. I rarely make a pie of any kind because of the sugar shortage. Aunt Mattie told me to fix a plate and take to Mama. She had invited her but Mama said she didn't feel like coming. There was about a fourth of my pie left so I took the plate it was on. But when I went by this afternoon Mabel Francis was there and when Mama happened to say that she didn't care for lemon pie Mabel said she was very fond of it and

without a by-you-leave she took it to the kitchen and ate the last smidgen of it. Mama was a little provoked, she had intended to give most of it to me to bring home. I did sorta want to taste it to see how it was but Mabel said it was perfect and certainly demonstrated her approval. / We had a letter from Barry today. He said he had received all of my letters up to March 1st. My new airmail stationery, with paper and envelope all in one had fooled him for a bit. I think he must have almost torn it up before he got the hang of it but he said he would know how to handle it from now on. He had a letter from Joe and two from Donald the day he wrote. He had flown his 14th mission, said it was in the Vienna area and very nice. He was to spend that night in a B-17 on guard. Said the weather has been nice, it looked as if spring was really there.

Monday, April 2. Jim had to go to Fayetteville today. Getting things ready for the city elections tomorrow. I worked on the lawn a little, got out the mower, oiled it and mowed a little. The show tonight was "White Cliffs of Dover." The sound wasn't too good, there were several walk-outs. Too serious for them I suppose. / Jim said Mildred Broyles and Irene Delap were to be clerks at the election tomorrow. They are on the sugar-rationing committee, too. We'll be running one of them for mayor first thing you know. / Letters from Donald and Joe. Joe said the news was making him feel that the war might be over this year, though he didn't want to get his hopes too high. / Donald said he had a letter from Barry telling the name of the town they went to on their long mission, Ruhland, 75 miles south of Berlin and 30 miles north of Dresden. Donald said he was surprised the censor passed it. He commented too about the war news but said he didn't believe there would be a sudden end to the fighting, that it would just taper off. Everything seems to point to that lately.

Tuesday, April 3. Jim got off early this morning to see about the city election. I didn't go down to vote, there wasn't the least

opposition. The same aldermen were elected except that Delford Reiff was elected in Vincel Bell's place. Mr. Holmes [J. Frank] was elected mayor. Jim got one less vote than the others. He never votes for himself. / We had a card today from the Red Cross saying that the films we had ordered for Barry were there. I was disappointed. I had thought they would be sent direct to Barry from the Eastman Co. / My oil heater had run dry and I filled it and lighted it then went out to work on the lawn for a while. I had a feeling that I should stay in till it was adjusted but thought I would come back soon. I stayed longer than I intended. When I came in I could hardly see around for the smoke. It was an awful mess. The soot was hanging in flakes from the burner, etc. and I was a sight before I got it cleaned up. While I was working one of the Jehovah Witnesses came to the door. After she had gone and I looked in the mirror I wondered how she could have talked to me without laughing in my face.

THURSDAY - APRIL 12, 1945 long will be remembered in the annals of history as the tragic date of the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Jim and I had had a busy day. About 4:00 Irene called me, asked if I had my radio turned on, which I did not. She said she had heard someone say something about the president and she thought they had said he was dead. I turned on the radio but there was so much static I couldn't hear a thing. At first when I tried short wave it sounded so normal I was about ready to call Irene and tell her it must be a mistake. I wanted so much for it to be. But I tried another station and heard the announcer say that because of the death of the president all regular programs were being cancelled till further notice. I called Irene but I felt so dazed I could scarcely think. I went out and told Jim and then came back and listened to the radio. I just couldn't leave it. I think I kept hoping it was a mistake tho I soon knew it couldn't be. It was quite apparent from everything I heard on the radio that the shock

was tremendous and universal. Tho I was struck with the lack of significance it had for children when Barry Pyeatt had to stop in out of the rain. He had brought the cow and was wet from a sudden, pouring rain. We stood on the porch and watched the clouds which were flying first one direction and then another and the wind too couldn't seem to make up its mind which way to blow. Barry and I spoke of it and I understood why when we heard tonight that there had been several tornadoes in Oklahoma which had done damage estimated in the millions and had killed a number of people, some said at least a hundred. But the thing that struck me was when I told Barry about the president's death he casually said, "Yes he looked like he was pretty old and sick in the newsreel, I didn't think he would live much longer." Jim and I listened to the radio till he had to go to town and I couldn't seem to turn it off. The tributes and messages were coming in from all over the world and the music was beautiful. We sat up quite a while after Jim came home.

Friday, April 13. We turned on the radio as soon as we got up. The tributes were perfectly beautiful and each one was a literary masterpiece. Every one seemed inspired. It didn't seem possible that one person could have so profound an influence on people all over the world. And as all regular programs were cancelled there was music continually except when the spoken tributes were being made. I have never heard such fine music. I suppose the emotion of the performers gave it a depth that we rarely hear. I went to Mama's, I had been afraid she would be almost sick. She had been such an admirer of his but she said Arthur had come down yesterday afternoon and told her and May having been with her last night helped too. She wasn't at home when I first went so I went to Ruth's for a while. She looked as if she had been sick. We all feel so dazed and shocked that it is hard to get any work done. Ruth told me the children didn't go to Lake Wedington last night but stayed out at Brewer's for their party,

which Ruth said was a wonderful relief. / Jim told me when he came that they were talking in Fayetteville about a woman who was in the Bob White Bakery when she heard the news of Roosevelt's death. She said "Goody, goody, I'm glad to hear it" and Mrs. White told her to get out and never to come back in there again. It doesn't seem possible that anyone could be so unkind and so crude. / Letters from Barry and Joe. Barry said he had my letter asking about the air medal. That he forgot to tell us–and when I read that I couldn't help saying "Just like him." However, he said it was for flying over enemy territory and not for any special feat. I imagine there are a lot of us who would think flying over enemy territory was a very special feat if we had to do it. He was puzzled how it got into the Arkansas Traveler. I don't know. He doesn't think that Germany will give up without guerilla warfare, which is what we all are beginning to accept sadly. He said the v-mail letter I had sent on to him was from a boy who was not more than 30 miles away and he didn't even know that Barry was in Italy. His name is Bill Kapp.

Saturday, April 14. Mr. Long [B. B.] came this morning to ask me to make a little talk tomorrow in tribute to Roosevelt at the simple Memorial Service he is planning. I thought I just could not but he insisted and I decided to try. So I spent much of the day trying to get some thoughts in order. There have been so many wonderfully beautiful things said that it seems very presumptuous for me to try to say anything. / Letter from Donald. He said the schedule they used there kept them standing on their head most of the time. There isn't any way they can lay out a schedule of their own as they could if they used regular hours. He had been swimming that day and had played some golf but he thought maybe he should stick to tennis from the score he made, doesn't have the time for practice it would take. I had written him something about how ordinary I was afraid things would look here after all the grandeur he was seeing there just teasing but he

wanted me to have no doubt that Northwest Arkansas is still the most beautiful place he has ever seen and no other place or people can mean as much to him.

Monday, April 16. I listened to the new president's speech to Congress and thought it was good. I felt comforted and encouraged after hearing him. He really sounded as if he knew what it was all about though he is quite humble about it. It was rather cute and interesting when he forgot to wait to be formally introduced and said "Mr. Speaker" before Tom Connally stopped him and said, "Wait and let me introduce you, won't you, Harry," and Mr. Truman said "Sure." But somehow it didn't seem to embarrass him at all. I felt that there were so many big things for him to think about he couldn't be bothered with something no more important than that. Of course his delivery wasn't as good as Roosevelt's (whose could be?) But it wasn't bad at all and seemed to have gone over in a big way. It does seem that most everyone is praying for him and offering to help in any way they can, which is probably because of the national crisis, but we can be thankful whatever the cause.

Tuesday, May 8, 1945. We heard President Truman announce the war in Europe had ended and later a rebroadcast of Churchill. Both talks were very good, but we have waited so long for it to be official that the real thing was a sort of disappointment. Fayetteville and Fort Smith celebrated yesterday as VE-Day. Joe is rather impatient with too much celebrating. He has been with boys who are destined for the Pacific and I'm sure that makes a difference in the viewpoint. I feel like he does, that we should be very thankful that it is this far along, but a lot of the boys won't feel any difference in their own experiences. Anyhow there has been and still is so much suffering in the world that too much hilarity seems out of place.

Sunday, May 20. Letter from Barry. He still has no idea where his next move will be but doesn't think it will be the

Pacific. He says the most persistent rumor is that they will be moved into Austria or southern Germany as a occupational force. He said there is also a rumor that they will be allowed to attend a university while there. He thought being over there would be quite educational and if he didn't love his family and home so much and want to come home to terribly he would be very eager to stay for a while. He said he only had 70 points. That sounds like a lot to me but of course isn't 85. He said he had been taking things easy and that knowing he didn't have any missions ahead to sweat out was a tremendous consolation. He says they are located about 15 miles from Foggia and about halfway between Foggia and Manfredonia, which is on the Adriatic. There is a nice beach there and that is where they go swimming. He has kept a diary of all his missions and said we could read it when he came home. Vienna was one of his main targets and one of the hardest. The hardest was to Linz, Austria, but that outside of about three the combat missions weren't too bad.

Wednesday, May 23. I called Annie James to ask her how the library was coming, I had intended to go by at least when I went to town yesterday but didn't have time. She said Kathleen [Harlan] and Lucile Brewster helped her and they got a lot done. They wiped down the walls and scrubbed the floors at the Legion Hut so no one would have an excuse to say anything. The county librarian had come and advised them about the arrangement and she was quite enthusiastic. / I went to Mildred's [Broyles] for a committee meeting to plan for Decoration Day next Sunday. Betsy Campbell was one of the committee. I don't think she approved of Mildred's and my comments about the UDC. Both of us feel that it has served its time and it is long overdue folding up. / Letter from Barry. He said the same crop of rumors was flying around and he is beginning to believe they are to be held over for occupation. He says they have quite a lot of spare time, a few classes, and he has been going to the beach often which he enjoys

very much. He had a letter from Frank Maupin enclosing the clipping from the Enterprise about Barry's Air Medal. He said when he first got over there a boy from public relations interviewed him and asked what he did before the army. Barry told him he was in the theatre business but that his twin brother did most of the work. And to quote Barry, "So he writes me up as being proprietor of the theatre. I should have told him I had $200 worth of stock in the bank and he would have made me president and owner." It sounded just like him but maybe he is a little more modest than necessary.

Tuesday, May 29. It is so hard to find good paint brushes so Jim hunted up some old ones, bought a preparation Jim Woodruff recommended to remove the old paint and tried it. The brushes seem to be responding beautifully to the treatment. He is quite proud of his good-as-new brushes. / We went to the show "Sign of the Cross." To be so old it is remarkably well done. The thought came to me that when it was shown before we were thankful that human beings were not treated like that any more. How mistaken we were if that was our thought for the horrible things that have been inflicted on human beings the last few years make Nero look like an amateur. / Letter from Donald. He had two letters from Barry and they were not censored. He had told details about his last mission to Linz, Austria, which were exciting and startling and as Donald said bring the full impact of his participation in the war when he tells about his plane having received three holes in the wing and that he saw two B-17s ahead of them being shot down. We have so very, very much to be thankful for.

Sunday, June 10. Bernice [Brooks] and I helped Arthur [McCormick] count the week's run of money. He always does that on Sunday. Jim was working on the running gears of the wagon when I got home, It seems that my folks are not too good about observing the Sabbath. It stormed harder than ever tonight. Irene

called me about 10:00 and said there was a light wire on the telephone lines somewhere and she was having a time. Every drop was down most of the time. And the wind had a lot of lines crossed. She said she started to the theatre to get Jim but it was raining too hard. Jim didn't get home till after 12:00. He and Henry [Nelson] had been working to get things cleared. Some limbs had blown across the lines at the old Watts place and that had caused the trouble. / We were delighted to get a letter from Barry today. He said he had flown for the first time in many days. He is a group photographer now. He took pictures of Rome, Naples and Joya. He said he would like to get hold of some of the pictures but was afraid it would be impossible. I can't understand why they are taking pictures of those cities now. The Americans, I mean. He said now that the war is over he could tell us the port they used coming to Italy. They arrived in Naples Nov. 26 and he expected to disembark and proceed to Foggia but "Lo and behold" they were loaded onto an enormous English liner. Someone called out "C. B. I. Here we come" and he said he settled back with the happy thought of a trip to India. But they sailed around the toe of the boot and landed at Taranto. Then they went to Bari and stayed until they were assigned to the 97th. He said Bari was one of the best towns in Italy (southern). That Foggia was bombed so much it was in pretty bad shape. He said he would have to give up writing, that he was having too many visitors. He had sent home $160 and wanted us to let him know when it came. They are advised to do that so if it doesn't arrive in a reasonable time they can start tracing it.

Monday, June 11. Letters from Barry and from Abbott Johnston. Abbott wrote a very nice letter thanking us for the boys' addresses. He said he had written Donald how lucky he is to be in the States still and that he would be foolish to try to get overseas, but, he said, he supposed Donald would be like he was—never satisfied till he saw for himself. He said it was a wonderful feeling

to know the war is over in Europe, that it seemed strange to drive at night with the lights on and that a lot of the people still close their blackout shutters at night. He doesn't think there will be any guerrilla fighting to amount to anything. Their biggest problem is the Russians who have been released from prison camps and are roaming around Germany or Austria and taking food and clothing from the people. He said they will kill a German or Austrian at the drop of a hat and having to try to protect the people and still keep down any friction between the Russians and the U. S. Army gets pretty complicated. He is with a group taking care of a prison camp and is about 20 miles from Linz. I shall always remember that place since Barry described his experience there. / I had mentioned in the diary that Joe and I didn't altogether agree about the way we should treat the Germans. He thought I wanted to be too easy and I argued that the question wasn't whether they deserved it but that I didn't want us to sink to their levels of cruelty because of what it would do to us. And he said that Uncle Grover [McCormick] agreed with him. Well Barry really took it seriously and most of his letter was about his opinion. He doesn't think there is anything to be gained by persecuting the whole German populace. I thought he made a pretty good case and I was rather proud of him for feeling the way he does. He thinks there is something to be gained by treating them with justice, that he had always felt that way and since he had been shot at and seen other men go down in flaming ships he still felt that being inhuman wouldn't solve any problems. That he had listened to men who had escaped from Germany and they felt as he did. Even after first hand reports of the prison camps at Buchenwald and Dachau. / I have felt lately that the diary must be getting a little tiresome and monotonous but he insists he still wants me to sent it.

Saturday, June 23. I went to Mama's to take her milk and some butter. She wanted me to look at her ration books. Said she

didn't know a thing about them. She is absolutely out of red stamps and not only that but a whole strip is gone for months ahead. I don't know how it has happened unless she kept ordering meat and they hated to tell her she didn't have any stamps and just took them before they were due. Mrs. Bohley got her book and very few of hers are gone so maybe they won't starve. / Letter from Barry. It was written last Sunday. He said he had got to church in the morning, to the beach in the afternoon and had guard that night. He told of the capture of a girl they called "Axis Sally." Said they used to listen to her every chance they had. That her program was really good, the musical part, and that she had one of the smoothest voices he had ever heard on the radio. The amazing thing about her program was her ability to tell what they were doing there on the field. He said on one occasion they had gotten up four straight mornings to go on a mission to Vienna but every time it was scrubbed because of bad weather. The night after the fourth scrubbed mission she came on the air and told them they had gotten up four mornings to make a run to Vienna only to have it scrubbed each time. She said to try to make it the next time for the gunners up there had their guns all cleaned and oiled and were ready. She did the same thing time and again. One time she said the clock in the officers' club at the 97th was five minutes slow–and it was five minutes slow.

Monday, July 9. I ordered soap this morning and they said they didn't have a bit. I had enough to do a washing and it was such a pretty day I thought I had better not put it off. I surely went easier on the soap than usual. It does seem odd not to be able to get soap but I suppose there are a lot of people in the world to whom that isn't a new experience. It was cloudy when we went to the show tonight and poured down before the show was over. It was "Kismet" and with the sound bad and the rain making so much noise on the roof I didn't enjoy it much. I doubt if I would have if conditions had been perfect. I didn't think it warranted all

the expense and effort that evidently had gone into it. / We had letters from Donald and Barry. Barry's letters surely lifted a load of anxiety. I rather felt like paddling him when I read that swimming and tennis had taken up so much of his time and that was the reason he had not written. Here I was imagining he must be moving or sick or something. He and Bernard Ramsey had been into Foggia to see a show, USO, Ed Gardner and Jinx Falkenburg. That Frank Sinatra had been there the night before but he didn't go. Was sorry be hadn't. He felt sure he would be given a bad reception because of his "bobby sox hysteria" reputation. But Barry said they were crazy about him by the time the show was over. He made it plain he was not in favor of the girls swooning over him. While he was writing Dick Haldiman came to his tent with a can of shrimp and he took time out to eat and "certainly did enjoy it." But then he game some to the puppy, Ace, and he went wild begging for more. He says he wakes him about 5 in the morning pulling at his blanket, wants someone to play with him. He had spanked him that morning but he went over to the corner and kept whining so that Barry didn't get to sleep after all.

Sunday, August 12. Uncle Fay [Lafayette McCormick] came early. He told about John Butler looking at some honey Uncle Fay had just taken off and didn't put the cover on good. When Uncle Fay discovered it the bees had eaten most of it. Uncle Fay was a little provoked with him for he had already engaged the honey for sale and it amounted to $5.00 or $6.00 worth. / Letter from Donald. He spoke of the news of the atomic bomb. How fantastic it is and that it surely will make the end of the war come sooner than we had ever imagined. Like all the rest of us he hopes and prays that the men who hold the secret of the bomb will be men of peace. He said it was rather frightening and I suppose he agrees with Janet when she said she wasn't sure she wanted to live in a world with such terrifying things.

Tuesday, August 14. Joe came in about two last night. He

brought the radio upstairs and I felt that there was something unusual going on. I got up and went in there. He said there was a lot of excitement about the surrender of Japan. We listened for a while but the announcers seemed pretty excited. They kept saying that it wasn't official yet. We listened till about 4. Joe was so sleepy that he began to nod so I turned off the radio and went to bed, but I was too excited to sleep. I got up and worked getting out some reports, etc., for a while, then finally went back upstairs to bed. We got up fairly early. I wanted to hear the news but it still was rather indefinite. They kept saying they were waiting for an announcement from the president. They kept saying that there might be a statement from the president at 6 o'clock. I had just turned the ratio on when Joe came in and the newsmen began saying that the president had said that Japan had accepted the Potsdam terms. Joe and I were so happy about it that we were pretty silly for a few minutes, tho I could hardly grasp the thought that it was really true. Joe came in early. Said it was rather disgusting in Fayetteville they were making so much noise over the victory news. Somehow it doesn't seem the kind of thing to be noisy about and I could appreciate the way Joe felt.

Friday, August 31. I could hardly believe it when Jim brought the mail tonight and there were three letters from Barry. He said he had done very little since he had come back from Rome and that the end of the war confusion had taken over the place too. He said he hoped some of the big shots would figure out a way for him to get home but it looked as if it would be from four to six months before that would happen. He said Foggia looked dreary and torn up after being in Rome. Some of the boys had asked him to go to the Church of Scotland canteen down below the RAF squadron. He had never been there before and was anxious to go. He said it was a nice place and the people very friendly. Most of the boys were English but there were a few Americans. Tho it is meant solely for the English personnel, they seem to enjoy having

the Americans. Are more friendly in that respect than the Americans. Until recently out Red Cross wouldn't allow any English in the Red Cross clubs but he said the American soldiers put up such a howl that they had to invite them. He had been disappointed in a number of things that the Red Cross has done, said they do so many things to make it nicer for themselves rather than the men in the Army. I imagine like most every organization that depends on the individual. They went to Manfredo by moonlight and he said it was one of the most beautiful sights he had ever seen. He said the critical score had been lowered to 75 points and he only had 74, that it was a disappointment as it would have meant that he would have been home in about two months. It was a quite a treat to have all the letters. We spent a lot of time talking and dreaming and calculating about when he might be home. Jim and Janet think it will be very soon but I don't dare get my hopes too high.

BOOK REVIEW

Four Years' Service in the Southern Army. By Joe M. Scott. (Leader Office Print Company, Mulberry, Arkansas, 1897, and reprinted by the Washington County Historical Society, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1959, 1992. Index and added illustrations. Pp. 55. $19.00)

Four Year's Service in the Southern Army is a first-person narrative of the service given by Joe Scott, a young man from a farming family that lived around the Ozark and Mulberry areas. This text is a great resource for both the Civil War scholar and the general reader who would like to know how a Confederate soldier viewed his participation and service in the Southern cause and its great impact on his life.

Joe Scott enlisted in the Army of the Confederacy in Fayetteville and became a member of Captain Mack Rieff's company, which was the advance guard for General Benjamin McCulloch's army during his Missouri campaign of August 1861. Scott first saw battle in Missouri at Dug Springs and later at Wilson's Creek. Scott also participated in the battle of Pea Ridge, where both General McCulloch and General James M. McIntosh fell in battle. After Pea Ridge Scott returned to Bentonville and the Arkansas units were disbanded, but Scott and several others attached themselves to another cavalry unit, the Sixth Texas Cavalry, and were sent to Memphis for service in northern Mississippi, Alabama, and middle Tennessee.

While with the Sixth Texas Scott received most of his battlefield experience. The roughest fighting that Scott encountered was at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, and the minor engagements that followed in that region. Scott's unit even participated in the Vicksburg campaign, in both a failed attempt to help relieve the town and in peripheral engagements. After the Sixth Texas's involvement at Vicksburg, Scott and a few other members of the unit crossed the Mississippi and tried to make their way across Louisiana so that they could go home on leave to Texas and Northwest Arkansas.

From this point on, Scott served primarily in Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas River valley from Van Buren to Dardanelle. Scott's service in this region ranged from a game of cat and mouse, in which Federal soldiers were roaming the countryside looking for him, to membership in groups of quasi-Confederate soldiers performing raids on towns, Federal encampments, and supply trains, and a return to regular army service in the region. At this time Scott served again with Colonel E. I. "Ras" Stirman, whom he described as a "gallant soldier," whose men "would follow him anywhere he asked them to." During Scott's service in Northwest Arkansas, he participated in several raids on the Federal post in Fayetteville with Buck Brown's unit.

Scott's narrative is filled with vignettes telling harrowing tales of his performance in battle, and his elusive out-maneuvering of Federal soldiers who were hunting him. He also gives a heart-moving account of Scott's caring for his greatly wounded friend and comrade Captain Jim Marlar, who was on the brink of death, while continuing to hide from pursuing Federal soldiers.

The current edition is handsomely reprinted in fifty-five pages. In the reprints embellishments from a gothic script and other common nineteenth-century trimmings were added, as well as illustrations taken from other period texts to show different battles, people, or scenes discussed in the text.

Scott's account is a fine first-person narrative. In the introduction to the original 1897 printing, Scott makes it known that this is a composition done thirty years after his stewardship to the "lost cause." Scott points out that he is presenting the facts, his experiences, and battles to the best of his ability in a manner to show the unvarnished facts and experience of a Confederate soldier, and that he is doing this not to "engender strife" between the sections and that his friends and family would still be proud to have known him.

BOOK REVIEW

Copies are available for purchase at the Washington County Historical Society's bookstore in the Headquarters House at 118 East Dickson Street in Fayetteville.

Garrick D. Hildebrand

FLASHBACK WINS AWARDS

The Arkansas Historical Association selected Willard Gatewood's article, "The Prairie Grove Valley and Its Communities," as Best Community History published in a county or local journal in 2003. The article appeared in the Winter and Spring 2003 (Vol. 53, Nos. 1 and 2) issues of *Flashback*.

The association also cited *Flashback* for the Best Use of Graphics in 2003. The awards were presented at the AHA's annual banquet in Fort Smith on April 16, 2004.

Flash Back
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